



WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION OF YOLO COUNTY

P.O. Box 8624, Woodland, CA 95776

Phone: (530) 666-2733

Fax: (530) 666-4257

Website: www.yolowra.org

Email: info@yolowra.org

RECEIVED

OCT 28 2010

3885-Delta Council

October 25, 2010

Phil Isenberg, Council Chairman
Delta Stewardship Council
980 9th Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: County of Yolo Early Actions Application - Westside Yolo Bypass Management Option

Dear Mr. Isenberg,

The Water Resources Association of Yolo County (WRA) supports the Early Action application submitted on October 5, 2010 by the County of Yolo entitled *Westside Yolo Bypass Management Option*. The County's Early Action application requests support for surveying, modeling and conceptual design that is needed to analyze the proposed Westside Option for improving rearing habitat in the Yolo Bypass for juvenile salmon.

By way of background, the Westside Option is a proposal put forth by the Yolo Basin Foundation after extensive discussions with Yolo Bypass stakeholders including the WRA. The Westside Option is a locally based proposal and may also be a vehicle for improving passage of adult salmon and sturgeon out of the Bypass and into the Sacramento River.

The WRA is the implementing agency for the Yolo County Regional Integrated Water Management Plan. Within this plan are watershed based integrated projects. The Westside Option is included in the recently updated Yolo Bypass Integrated Project. To be successful any project proposed for the Yolo Bypass should integrate agriculture, flood control and public use in a meaningful way.

As a Yolo County-based organization the WRA is well aware of the many concerns voiced by Yolo Bypass farmers, wetland managers, landowners, elected representatives and others voiced over the last three years regarding the adverse impacts of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) proposed modification of the Fremont Weir to improve rearing habitat for juvenile salmon and improve passage for adult fish. Local interests consistently indicate concern that this measure will adversely impact agriculture, flood control and public use in the Yolo Bypass and to date these issues have not been addressed by the BDCP proponents or the fisheries agencies tasked with implementing the Salmon Biological Opinion.

Mr. Phil Isenberg
Delta Stewardship Council
October 25, 2010
Page Two

These are serious concerns and they deserve serious attention. To date, however, the BDCP planning process has not addressed them. It instead appears likely that meaningful consideration of these concerns will be deferred to a separate planning process—the preparation of a Yolo Bypass Fisheries Enhancement Plan—that has not yet been described in detail. We believe it is critical to perform early surveying, modeling, and similar work to develop the Westside Option so that it receives proper consideration during that process.

The WRA anticipates that the Westside Option will address many of the concerns of those who rely on the multiple uses and activities that the Yolo Bypass currently supports. Please refer to Attachment A of the County's application for a description of the Westside Option.

The WRA asks that the Delta Stewardship Council recognize the importance of the Westside Option by funding the Early Action Request submitted by Yolo County.

Sincerely,



William L. Marble, Chair
Water Resources Association of Yolo County

cc: Supervisor Helen Thomson, Chair, Yolo County Board of Supervisors
Robin Kulakow, Executive Director, Yolo Basin Foundation